

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR NURSING**

Department of Public Health v.

Sandra Gayle Corder, R.N.

Registered Nurse License No. R41917

2724 Duluth Street

Highland, Indiana 46322

CASE PETITION NO. 940823-10-083

**MEMORANDUM OF DECISION**

**INTRODUCTION**

The Board of Examiners for Nursing (hereinafter the "Board") was presented by the Department of Public Health <sup>1/</sup> (hereinafter the "Department") with a Statement of Charges and a Motion for Summary Suspension dated April 28, 1995 (Department Exhibit 1). The Statement of Charges alleged certain conduct by Sandra Gayle Corder (hereinafter the "Respondent") which would subject her to disciplinary action pursuant to the General Statutes of Connecticut.

On May 3, 1995, based on the allegations in the Statement of Charges and accompanying affidavits and reports, the Board ordered, pursuant to its authority under §19a-17 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, that the registered nurse license of the Respondent be summarily suspended pending a final determination by the Board of the allegations contained in the Statement of Charges (Department Exhibit 1).

The Board issued a Notice of Hearing dated May 3, 1995 scheduling a hearing for May 17, 1995. (Department Exhibit 1) The hearing took place on May 17, 1995 at the Department of Public Health and Addiction Services, 20 Trinity Street, Hartford, Connecticut.

<sup>1/</sup> Prior to July 1, 1995 the Department of Public Health was known as the Department of Public Health and Addiction Services. (Connecticut Public Act 95-257)

Each member of the Board involved in this decision attests that he/she was present at the hearing or has reviewed the record, and that this decision is based entirely on the record and the Board's specialized professional knowledge in evaluating the evidence.

### FACTS

Based on the testimony given and the exhibits offered into evidence, the Board makes the following Findings of Fact.

1. Sandra Gayle Corder, hereinafter referred to as the Respondent, was issued Registered Nurse License Number R41917 on October 1, 1987 and has been the holder of said license at all times referred to in the Statement of Charges. (Department Exhibit 1-B).
2. The Respondent was aware of the time and location of the hearing. Department Exhibit 2 indicates that the Notice of Hearing was delivered by certified mail to the Respondent.
3. The Respondent was not present during the hearing and was not represented by counsel. (Hearing Transcript, May 17, 1995, pp. 2-3)
4. The Respondent was the holder of registered nurse license number 28074330A in the State of Indiana. (Department Exhibit 1-C)
5. On September 6, 1990 the Indiana State Board of Nursing ordered (Department Exhibit 1-C) the Respondent's Indiana registered nurse license be revoked on grounds that the Respondent was unfit to practice nursing due to professional incompetence; practicing beyond the scope of nursing; and engaging in fraud or material deception in the course of professional services or activities, in that during 1985-1987 the Respondent engaged in the following misconduct:
  - a. She altered or caused to be altered her Indiana registered nurse's license by replacing the words "registered nurse" with the words "clinical psychologist."

- b. She falsely represented she had received a master's degree from Governor's State University, University Park, Illinois, when, in fact, she had not.
  - c. She falsely represented that she had received a doctorate degree in psychology from Northwestern University, State of Illinois, when, in fact, she had not.
  - d. She practiced as a licensed psychologist in the State of Indiana, even though she was licensed only as a registered nurse.
  - e. She advertised herself to the public as a "Licensed Psychologist" and offered to provide "Psychological testing" services in the 1986/87 Crown Point/Merrillville, Indiana, telephone directory.
6. On November 30, 1989 the Respondent was issued registered nurse license number 446931 in the State of California. (Department Exhibit 1-A)
7. On June 21, 1994 the State of California Board of Registered Nursing ordered the Respondent's California registered nurse license revoked, effective July 21, 1994, based upon the findings and order of the Indiana State Board of Nursing. (Department Exhibit 1-A)

### **DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

In consideration of the above Findings of Fact, the following conclusions are rendered:

Sandra Gayle Corder held a valid registered nurse license in the State of Connecticut at all times referenced in the Statement of Charges.

The Summary Suspension Order, Notice of Hearing and Statement of Charges sufficiently provided information as mandated by the General Statutes of Connecticut §4-177 and §4-182.

The hearing was held in accordance with Chapters 54 and 368a of the General Statutes of Connecticut as well as §19-2a-1 through §19-2a-30 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies. The Notice of Hearing, Statement of Charges and the hearing process provided the Respondent with the opportunity to

demonstrate compliance with all lawful requirements for the retention of her license as required by the General Statutes of Connecticut §4-182(c).

The FIRST COUNT of the Statement of Charges alleges that the revocation of the Respondent's registered nurse licenses in Indiana and California, based on the findings by Indiana State Board of Nursing that the Respondent committed fraud or material deception in the course of professional services or activities; was guilty of professional incompetence; and that the Respondent practiced beyond the scope of nursing, subjects the Respondent to disciplinary action by the Connecticut Board of Examiners for Nursing.

The SECOND COUNT of the Statement of Charges alleges that during 1985-1987 the Respondent engaged in illegal conduct and/or fraud or material deception in the course of her professional services or activities in the following respects:

- "a. She altered or caused to be altered her Indiana registered nurse's license by replacing the words "registered nurse" with the words "clinical psychologist."
- b. She falsely represented she had received a master's degree from Governor's State University, University Park, Illinois, when, in fact, she had not.
- c. She falsely represented that she had received a doctorate degree in psychology from Northwestern University, State of Illinois, when, in fact, she had not.
- d. She practiced as a licensed psychologist in the State of Indiana, even though she was licensed only as a registered nurse.
- e. She advertised herself to the public as a "Licensed Psychologist" and offered to provide "Psychological testing" services in the 1986/87 Crown Point/Merrillville, Indiana, telephone directory."

The Respondent did not file an answer to the Statement of Charges, therefore the Board deems the Statement of Charges to be admitted.

The General Statutes of Connecticut §20-99(b) prohibits conduct which fails to conform to the accepted standards of the nursing profession, which includes "... (2) illegal conduct, incompetence or negligence in carrying out usual nursing functions... (6) fraud or material deception in the course of professional services or activities...."

The Board concludes that the Respondent's conduct as specified in the Second Count, despite being committed outside of the State of Connecticut, which is the basis for the revocation of the Respondent's Indiana and California registered nurses licenses, is conduct which fails to conform to the accepted standards of the nursing profession and constitutes a violation of the General Statutes of Connecticut §20-99(2) and (6).

The General Statutes of Connecticut §19a-17 and §20-99 provides that the Board may take any of the actions specified in §19a-17 for conduct which fails to conform to the accepted standards of the nursing profession and which occurred prior or subsequent to the issuance of a license.

Based on its findings the Board concludes that the Respondent's registered nurse license in the State of Connecticut is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to §19a-17 of the General Statutes of Connecticut.

### ORDER

Pursuant to its authority under Section 19a-17 and Section 20-99 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, the Board of Examiners for Nursing hereby orders the following:

1. That the Respondent's registered nurse license, No. R41917 be revoked.
2. Revocation shall become effective on the date this Memorandum of Decision is signed by the Board of Examiners for Nursing.

The Respondent, Sandra Gayle Corder, is hereby directed to immediately surrender Registered Nurse License No. R41917 to the Board of Examiners for Nursing, Department of Public Health, 150 Washington Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106.

The Board of Examiners for Nursing hereby informs the Respondent, Sandra Gayle Corder, and the Department of Public Health of the State of Connecticut of this decision.

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut this 27st day of September, 1995.

BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR NURSING

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By

Mary E. O'Hara

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STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES  
BUREAU OF HEALTH SYSTEM REGULATION  
DIVISION OF MEDICAL QUALITY ASSURANCE

In re: Sandra Gayle Corder  
a.k.a. Sandra Gayle Cserup, R.N.  
2724 Duluth  
Highland, IN 46322

Petition No. 940823-10-083

SUMMARY SUSPENSION ORDER

WHEREAS, the affidavits, duly verified, allege facts which show violations of §20-99(b) and §19a-17(a)(7)(B) of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, and which imperatively require emergency action in that the public health, safety or welfare of the citizens of the State of Connecticut is in clear and immediate danger; and,

Pursuant to the authority of §4-182(c), §19a-17(a)(7)(B), and/or §19a-17(c), pending the hearing set for the 17 day of May, <sup>1995</sup>~~1994~~ at 1:00 p.m.

It is hereby ORDERED, by vote of the Connecticut Board of Examiners for Nursing (hereinafter "the Board"), that registered nurse license number R41917 of Sandra Gayle Corder, a.k.a. Sandra Gayle Cserup, R.N. is summarily suspended pending a final determination by the Board of the allegations contained in the Statement of Charges.

Further, it is hereby ORDERED, by vote of the Board that Sandra Gayle Corder, a.k.a. Sandra Gayle Cserup, R.N., immediately surrender her registered nurse license number R41917 and current registration to the Connecticut Board of Examiners for Nursing, 150 Washington Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106 upon notification of this order.

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut this 3rd day of May, 1995.

By:

Nancy L. Blum  
Connecticut Board of Examiners for Nursing

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04/07/95